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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Fumiyoshi Ariki et al.

Application No.: 10/625,541

Filed: July 24, 2003

For: WELDING METHOD AND
TUBULAR MEMBER AND GEAR
PUMP MADE USING THE
WELDING

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) Group Art Unit: 1725

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) Examiner: LYNNE RENEE
EDMONDSON

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) Confirmation No.: 8204



RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated January 24, 2005, the following remarks are submitted.

The aforementioned Official Action indicates that the claims in this application are directed to three different inventions. As identified in the Official Action, the three inventions are as follows.

Group I invention defined in Claims 1-4 drawn to a method of welding a tubular member.

Group II invention recited in Claims 5 and 8-10 directed to an assembly comprising a tubular member.

Group III invention defined in Claim 7 drawn to a gear pump.

Based on the observation that the three inventions are distinct from one another, a restriction requirement has been imposed requiring an election of one of the three inventions.